

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ for producing and strapping recumbent stacks of printed products, comprising the steps of:

~~_____ supplying wherein the printed products are supplied at a supply point (Z) from above on to a conveying surface (2);~~

~~_____ conveying the printed products, which are standing on one edge, on the conveying surface, and, standing on one edge, are conveyed as a continuously growing stack in a stacking direction (S) along the conveying surface (2) away from the supply point (Z);~~

~~_____ isolating, wherein discreet stacks (7) are isolated from the continuously growing stack;~~

~~_____ positioning, wherein endplates (4) are positioned at a downstream and an upstream end of each discreet stack; and~~

~~_____ conveying wherein each isolated discreet stack is conveyed being while holding said each isolated discreet stack held between a downstream and an upstream compression jaw (11 and 10), in the stacking direction (S) into a strapping position (12);~~

~~_____ compressing each isolated discreet stack and, while compressed, is~~
~~compressed and, in the compressed condition, is strapped~~ strapping same with a
strapping material, and wherein, ~~characterized in that~~ in order to convey the discreet
stack (7) into the strapping position (12),

~~_____ moving~~ the two compression jaws (10,11) ~~are moved~~ into the stack area from
a first side of the conveying surface (2) in an essentially horizontal motion transverse
to the stacking direction (S), and

~~_____ wherein, that for strapping, preparing~~ a loop of strapping material is ~~prepared~~
~~on the a~~ second side of the conveying surface (2) opposite its first side and
positioning the loop ~~is positioned~~ around the stack (7) through an essentially
horizontal relative motion transverse to the stacking direction, between the loop and
the stack (7) held by the compression jaws (10,11).

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein, by tightening the loop, the stack (7) is strapped
together with the compression jaws (10, 11) and ~~that~~ the strapped stack (7) is
separated from the compression jaws (10, 11) by an essentially horizontal relative
motion transverse to the stacking direction, between the compression jaws (10, 11)
and the strapped stack (7).

3. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the stack (7), held between the compression jaws (10,
11), remains stationary in the strapping position (12) and the loop is moved towards
the stack (7).

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 2 ~~or 3~~, characterized in that wherein, in order to separate the stack (7) from the compression jaws (10, 11), the compression jaws are retracted from the stack area (16).

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The method~~ Method according to one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that claim 1, wherein, between successive strapping processes, a further essentially horizontal relative motion transverse to the stacking direction, is performed between the loop and the stack (7) held by the compression jaws (10, 11).

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that claim 1, wherein, in order to isolate the discreet stack (7) from the continuously growing stack (6), comprising the further steps of:

moving a first support element (14) ~~is moved~~ in stacking direction (S) from a starting position (14A) upstream of the supply point (Z) through the supply point (Z);

inserting a second support element (15) ~~is inserted~~ from below the conveying surface (2) into the first support element (14) in a position downstream of the supply point (Z) and, in relation to the first support element (14), the second support element (15) is accelerated in stacking direction (S).

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 6, characterized in that wherein, in order to transfer the upstream end of an isolated stack (7) to the upstream compression jaw (10), the second support element (15) is

moved in stacking direction (S) just downstream of a starting position (10A) of the upstream compression jaw (10), the upstream compression jaw (10) is moved into the stack area (16) and is then moved in stacking direction (S), and the second support element (15) is lowered below the conveying surface (2).

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the rear endplate is positioned between the upstream compression jaw (10) and the second support element (15) before the second support element (15) is lowered.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 7 ~~or 8~~, ~~characterized in that wherein~~, in order to transfer the downstream end of the continuously growing stack (6) to the downstream compression jaw (11), comprising the further steps of:

_____ the second support element (15) waits ~~waiting~~ downstream of the starting position (10A) of the upstream compression jaw (10),

_____ moving the upstream compression jaw (10) ~~is moved~~ into the stack area (16) and is then ~~moved~~ in stacking direction (S), and

_____ lowering the second support element (15) ~~is lowered~~ below the conveying surface (2).

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the front endplate (4) is positioned between the first

support element (14) and the second support element (15) before the first support element (14) is lowered.

11. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to claim 8, wherein ~~or 10, characterized in that~~ the endplates (4) are inserted into the stack area from above for being positioned at the stack ends.

12. (Currently Amended) A device ~~Device~~ for producing and strapping recumbent stacks of printed products, ~~which said device comprises comprising~~ a supply point (Z) where the printed products are supplied from above on to a conveying surface (2), wherein the conveying surface extends from the supply point (Z) in stacking direction (S) to a strapping position (12) and a stack area (16) is reserved above the conveying surface, and ~~which device further comprises said device further comprising~~ means for isolating discreet stacks (7) from a stack (6) ~~which that~~ is continuously growing along the conveying surface (2), means for position endplates (4) at a downstream and an upstream end of the isolated stack (7), an upstream and a downstream compression jaw (10, 11) for holding the isolated stack and for conveying the held stack into the strapping position (12), and a strapping device (30) for strapping the isolated stack (7) in the strapping position, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the compression jaws (10, 11) are arranged to be moveable from a first side of the stack area (16) into and out of the stack area (16), ~~that~~ the strapping device (30) comprises a looping channel (31) with a closing means (31'), the strapping device being arranged in the area of the strapping position, at least when inactive, on a second side of the stack area (16) opposite the

first side, and ~~that~~ the compression jaws (10, 11) and the looping channel (31) with the closing means (31') are moveable relative to each other, substantially horizontally and transverse to the stacking direction (S).

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the compression jaws (10, 11) when positioned in the stack area (16) reach from the first side of the stack area (16) beyond the middle of the stack area (16).

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 12, wherein ~~or 13, characterized in that~~ the conveying surface (2) comprises a conveyor belt (2.1) ~~being equipped that is adapted~~ to be driven at a constant speed, away from the supply point (Z), as well as a second conveyor belt (2.2) being that is adapted ~~equipped to be driven at a variable speed and being arranged adjacent the first conveyor belt (2.1).~~

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to ~~one of claims 12 to 14, characterized in that~~ claim 12, further comprising a compression carriage (13) being equipped that is adapted to move back and forth in parallel to the stacking direction (S), is provided, said compression jaws (10, 11) being arranged on upon ~~which the compression carriage (13), said compression jaws the compression jaws (10, 11) are arranged~~ being moveable independently of each other back and forth parallel to the stacking direction (S).

16. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to ~~one of claims 12 to 15, characterized in that~~ claim 12, wherein the means for isolating a discreet stack (7) comprises a first support element (14) and a second support element (15), ~~that~~ both support elements (14, 15) being are designed to be moveable back and forth parallel to the stacking direction (S) and to be lowered and raised below and above the conveying surface (2) and to be positioned simultaneously in the same spot of the stack area (16).

17. (Currently Amended) The device ~~Device~~ according to ~~one of claims 12 to 16, characterized in that~~ claim 12, wherein the means for positioning the endplates (4) comprises an endplate storage unit (20) situated above the stack area (16), ~~the a~~ head (21) of said endplate storage unit being ~~which~~ is equipped for positioning endplates (4) in the stack area (16).

18. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 17, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, in addition ~~of to~~ being equipped for positioning endplates, the head (21) is further equipped for moving the endplates parallel to the stacking direction (S).